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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 MCE-00 /101 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. COLLUMS
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
----------007860 312315Z /15
O 312243Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
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USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 208909

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 31, 1977

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 31, 1977: FYI ONLY, THE OFFICER DOING THE BRIEFING TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER.

Q. HODDING, HAS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION MADE ITS DECISION OR HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT MADE ITS PART OF THE DECISION ABOUT THE F-15'S TO SAUDI ARABIA?

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A. I THINK THAT WE HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT WE SAW THE INTEREST IN AN AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE THE BRITISH LIGHTENING IN THE EARLY 1980'S AS A LONGSTANDING INTEREST AND SO IS OUR COMMITMENT TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS. AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME WE ARE GOING TO BE --

Q. WOULD YOU SAY THE LAST SENTENCE AGAIN?

A. OUR COMMITMENT TO HELP SAUDI ARABIA WITH ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS IS ALSO LONGSTANDING.

WE WILL BE CONSULTING THE CONGRESS AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME ABOUT THE SAUDI REQUEST FOR THE F-15, BUT WE HAVE NOT MADE A DECISION ABOUT WHEN A PROPOSAL MIGHT BE SENT TO THE HILL.

Q. IS THAT NOT THE GUIDANCE THAT YOU HAD ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO?

Q. YES. I THINK SO.

A. I THINK THAT THAT STILL STANDS.

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Q. AND THE SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED ANY MORE THAN THE WORDING OF YOUR GUIDANCE?

A. I THINK THAT INSOFAR AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE HILL HAVE NOT BEGUN.

Q. YOU SAY WHEN THE PROPOSAL WILL BE SENT TO THE HILL RATHER THAN IF THE PROPOSAL. DOES THIS PRE-SUPPOSE THEN THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO ASK THE HILL FOR THE 60 F-15'S?

A. I REALLY DON'T THINK I CAN GO BEYOND THAT STATEMENT RIGHT NOW.
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Q. THE WAY THE STATEMENT IS WORDED THE CONCLUSION IS RATHER CLEAR THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY MADE UP ITS MIND THAT IT WILL RECOMMEND THAT SAUDI ARABIA GET THE 60 F-15'S.

A. HENRY, I WOULDN'T WANT TO DRAW THAT CONCLUSION.

Q. COULD YOU READ THE LAST SENTENCE AGAIN?

Q. IS IT BADLY WORDED THEN OR WHAT?

A. LET ME READ IT TO YOU DIRECTLY. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT WHEN A PROPOSAL MIGHT BE SUBMITTED TO THE HILL.

Q. IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF "IF" THOUGH. IT IS JUST A QUESTION OF TIMING, ACCORDING TO THAT.

A. WELL, ABOUT WHEN A PROPOSAL MIGHT BE SUBMITTED TO THE HILL. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON THAT.

Q. HODDING, THE USE OF THE WORD "COMMITMENT" PUZZLES ME. WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THAT? IS THAT SIMPLY THAT WE HAVE

FOR MANY, MANY YEARS PROVIDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THAT OUT OF THIS LONG TERM ARRANGEMENT GROWS A COMMITMENT?

A. I THINK JUST SIMPLY THAT WE HAVE MAINTAINED A RELA-TIONSHIP WITH THEM ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND THAT THAT HAS BEEN BASED ON OUR DESIRE TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS. THAT IS NOT PRE-SUPPOSING SOME WRITTEN AGREEMENT.
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Q. SO, THE USE OF THE WORD SIMPLY GROWS OUT OF PRACTICE?

A. YES.

Q. HODDING, DID YOU NEVER CONSULT WITH CONGRESS ON THIS BEFORE?

A. WAIT A MINUTE. YOU MEAN BEFORE WHAT? THIS YEAR?

Q. BEFORE TODAY.

A. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. THERE HAS BEEN, YOU KNOW, JUST DISCUSSION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY -- SOUNDINGS, IN OTHER WORDS. BUT, THERE HAVE BEEN NO FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH GOES WITH A FORMAL DECISION TO GO FORWARD.

Q. WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF THESE SOUNDINGS? FAVORABLE?

A. I AM SORRY.

Q. ESSENTIALLY THE DECISION IS BETWEEN TWO POLICIES, ONE NOTE TO INTRODUCE ADVANCED WEAPONRY INTO AN AREA WHERE IT DOESN'T EXIST AND THE OTHER TO HONOR THE COMMITMENT TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR DEFENSE NEEDS; RIGHT?

A. I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE DRAWN THAT NARROWLY AS TO WHAT CONSIDERATIONS WOULD GO INTO IT OR WHETHER THE ONLY OPTIONS COME DOWN BETWEEN THOSE TWO CHOICES. I, FRANKLY, AM NOT SURE OF WHAT ALL THE MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS WOULD GO INTO IT OR AS TO WHAT THE BALANCE IS BETWEEN VARIOUS TESTS THAT ARE APPLIED AND WHETHER THOSE ARE THE ONLY TWO TESTS, I WOULD REALLY HESITATE TO SAY.

Q. WELL, IS THE PROPOSAL THEN BETWEEN F-15'S AND NO
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AIRPLANE OR F-15'S AND ANOTHER KIND OF AIRPLANE?

A. I REALLY AT THIS TIME AM NOT PREPARED MUCH TO GO INTO ALL THE FORMS OF INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN DEFENSE, STATE, AND OTHER AGENCIES ON SAUDI'S REQUEST TO REPLACE THEIR LIGHTENING, WHICH IS A LONG TERM REQUEST ON THEIR PART OR DESIRE ON THEIR PART.

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CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 31, 1977 FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 31, 1977
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, SA
To: JIDDA ABU DHABI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d754fb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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